



**CITY OF YPSILANTI
POLICE ADVISORY COMMISSION AGENDA
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2018
7:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS:

Andy Fanta	Present
Heather Freeling (8:06)	Present
Kathleen McCormick	Present
Susan Melke	Present
Herman Humes	Present
Gail Wolkoff	Present

STAFF LIASION:

Police Chief Tony DeGuisti	Present
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III. AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner McCormick moved, seconded by Commission Freeling to approve the agenda as submitted.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the agenda was approved as amended.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

— September 27, 2018 Minutes

Commissioner McCormick moved, seconded by Commissioner Freeling to approve the minutes as submitted.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the minutes were approved.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VI. DISCUSSION OF TOWN HALL MEETING – COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Commissioner Freeling moved, seconded by Commissioner Wolkoff to enter a Committee of the Whole.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the Commission entered a Committee of the Whole.

Commissioner Freeling asked if Commissioner Melke received the letter she had sent. Commissioner Melke responded she had received it, and asked why it was not brought before the Commission. Ms. Freeling responded it had. Ms. Melke stated she would review the minutes for comments made about the letter. Ms. Freeling stated the matter was quickly resolved by the police. Commissioner Fanta recalled discussing the letter and felt both the letter, and its response were appropriate. Ms. Freeling added the individual who drafted the letter was satisfied with the letter.

Commissioner Freeling felt the first Town Hall was successful, with a good turnout. She thought the comments made were fairly predictable, and was hoping for more comments about the youth and senior population in the city. She thought the comment regarding monthly updates from the Police Department would be beneficial. Commissioner Melke asked if the Police Department had the capacity to undertake a monthly event, and what would be the cost. Chief DeGiusti replied both would be dependent on what the event would be and how many staff would be required. He explained the activity in the city does not allow for a lot of down time with the department. Ms. Melke stated it would only require four officers for a few hours. Chief DeGiusti replied he would need more detail to provide a reasonable estimate. Ms. Melke asked if it would make more sense financially to send a higher ranking officer. Chief DeGiusti replied it would not necessarily make more sense.

Commissioner Humes stated he is trying to understand what is the community actually wants, greater visibility outside of the day to day tasks of an officer. Commissioner Freeling responded that is her understanding of what was said. Mr. Humes asked if there are activities the youth are currently participating in that could have a positive police presence. He asked if the department has the capacity to even perform additional responsibilities. Commissioner Melke assumed community engagement is a part of an officer's job description. Chief DeGiusti replied not necessarily, the job description is to maintain peace and order in the city. How that job is accomplished might include community engagement, but that is not the first order of business. Ms. Melke stated community engagement could occur after normal hours. Chief DeGiusti replied he is not opposed to community engagement, but there are several issues. To do that an officer would need to be asked to stay after working a twelve hour shift. Community policing is not just an officer being friendly, it is very labor intensive. Ms. Melke understood the department does not have resources to implement community policing, but possible something small. Chief DeGiusti added the department is far better off going to an event that is already established.

Commissioner Freeling stated it is much easier to implement these type of activities in cities with larger forces. Commissioner Wolkoff stated Ypsilanti's Police Department is not the only department that polices this city, there is also EMU and the Sheriff's Department. If there is going to be a community event those departments should also be invited. Commissioner Humes stated the issue is how to coordinate an event with all departments present. Commissioner Melke stated it would not be that difficult. Mr. Humes agreed, but who would coordinate the event, and be able to monitor it.

Commissioner Melke stated her main concern is that city police be involved, however, she would like the others to be present. She asked if an officer would be willing to donate personal time or a

vacation day to this event. Chief DeGiusti asked if the request is for an officer to volunteer. Ms. Melke responded in the affirmative. Chief DeGiusti replied the department cancels a lot of days off, and does not think officers would be interested in volunteering.

Commissioner McCormick asked if the police could attend a known event, like the season opener for little league. Perhaps stop by for ten minutes and throw the first pitch, or something along those lines. To be involved in something that already exists makes the police more visible. Chief DeGiusti replied things like that are already happening. He explained officers attended a Boys and Girls Club event, purchased pizzas and played basketball with the kids. Commissioner Melke asked if photos were taken and posted to social media. Chief DeGiusti replied he is not certain, but there was video taken, if it made it to social media he does not know. Ms. Melke stated when the police takes part in events it needs to be made public, positive public relations is how trust is built.

Commissioner Fanta stated getting in touch with other law enforcement agencies in college towns could be helpful in gathering information on how they interact with the community. He suggested taking stock in the resources this city has and what the department can do.

Commissioner Fanta stated he was pleased with how the Town Hall went, however, he would have liked to see a higher attendance. Two themes seemed to emerge to him, one focus on community youth and how the police conduct themselves while on duty.

Commissioner Melke stated she doesn't understand how people would be against the police holding events and publicizing the events. Commissioner McCormick asked how Commissioner Melke suggests how positive police interaction with the public be publicized. Ms. Melke stated when the police are aware of an event, or at an event, someone should take pictures to put on social media. She asked what would be wrong with that. Ms. McCormick replied there would be nothing wrong with that. Commissioner Wolkoff agreed, it is a great idea to publicize the good the department is doing in the community. She said the department needs to build trust in order to be allowed into organizations and take photos of positive interaction with the public. She said she does not feel the department is at that step. Ms. Melke interjected she doesn't understand why there is an aversion to this. Commissioner Humes responded there is not an aversion, but there is a question of process, how to design the task. He asked where one can go to find out what and when activities are happening. Ms. Wolkoff responded that is what she meant about silos, and the separation between different organizations in the community. It would be helpful to create a resource guide of all different activities and places occurring in the city. Commissioner Humes asked if the Police Advisory Commission could send a letter to those agencies asking for the police to be invited to those events.

Commissioner Fanta stated the first step is to complete research to understand what organizations and events exist in the community.

Commissioner McCormick stated it would be wise if pictures are going to be placed on social media that a release is signed. Commissioner Freeling stated a good place to start would be to keep an eye on the city website and put it on Facebook.

Commissioner Fanta stated he will make an announcement at the next Monday meeting at Parkridge Community Center. He suggested drafting a letter to send to all organizations requesting

a calendar of activities and whether there would be an interest in having the police present. Commissioner Melke interjected she does not believe it is the Commission job to send that letter, it should come from the police. Commissioner Humes disagreed, this commission is tasked with improving the relationship between the community and the Police Department.

Commissioner Wolkoff stated this is not only an attempt to bring the community and the Police Department together, but to let the community know this Commission exists. She stated the Town Hall meeting was held in Ward 1 and proposed holding a Town Hall meeting in Ward 2 and Ward 3. If the Commission continues to hold Town Halls the community will begin to talk. It would be advantageous to hold a Town Hall at the Senior Center, when the seniors are there.

Commissioner Fanta agreed the Commission should hold more Town Halls, and possibly an Open House. This would give the public an opportunity a time to discuss in an informal manner. Commissioner Wolkoff proposed January.

Commissioner McCormick asked the Commission to approach people in a sensitive manner at the Parkridge Monday meetings as they can be skeptical. She suggested asking the community what the commission can do for the community, rather than providing information the commission wants the community to have.

Commissioner Humes asked if the Town Hall meeting could be combined with an Open House.

Commissioner Melke stated the plan for the Open House was to have the Chief leave halfway through the meeting. As a result it could have possibly kept someone for voicing an opinion. Commissioner Fanta took responsibility for the Chief not leaving. Commissioner Humes stated he felt the meeting took the course it was meant to take. He felt those in attendance were perfectly comfortable with the Chief's presence. Ms. Melke responded you have no idea if that is true.

Commissioner Melke stated the Town Halls she has been present for the moderator is only there to facilitate the questions. The moderator at this Town Hall acting in a more participatory role. Commissioner McCormick stated the people in attendance are comfortable with that structure of meeting. Commissioner Freeling stated it appeared the audience really trusted the moderator and he created a good flow to the meeting. Ms. Melke interjected her concern is too much of the meeting was the moderator speaking.

Commissioner Melke asked if during the next meeting the form of the January Town Hall should be discussed. Commissioner McCormick replied she has learned from meetings she has chaired is if too much is put into the planning of a meetings form, it can leave the planner angry if it did not go as planned. Ms. Melke responded who is moderating makes a difference in how a meeting is run, and the Commission should design how it should function.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Town Hall Minutes (November Meeting) - None
- B. Establish November Meeting Date - None

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Police Advisory Commission
October 25, 2018

- A. Roberts Rules of Order – Cheat Sheet - None
- B. Ann Arbor Draft Ordinance – Comments –

Commissioner Melke will provide a copy of the ordinance to the other Commission. Commissioner Fanta asked the Commission to review the ordinance and email him any suggestions.

Commissioner Wolkoff asked if complaints go straight to the Police Chief, or if they go to someone else. Chief DeGiusti responded a complaint goes to a myriad of places depending on the mechanism they are submitted. Paper complaints can be submitted to the Police Department, City Manager’s Office, Clerk Department, and City Attorney’s Office. Once a complaint has been submitted it is transferred to the Police Chief. Ms. Wolkoff stated as a commissioner she can be assured the Chief of Police get the complaint. Chief DeGiusti responded minor complaints might be handled by the command officer on duty, he might not see it. If the complaint cannot be resolved it would come to him.

- C. Police Complaint Form

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Frank Stanton – stated the Ypsilanti Police Force does an outstanding job, more than anything this community could expect or want. However, he does not like the Police coming to his home and breaking windows and making claims his door would be busted down.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

— November 29, 2018

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner moved Melke, seconded by Commissioner Wolkoff to adjourn the meeting.

On a voice the vote, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.